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ABSTRACT

This brochure for parents and prospective students of French points out career opportunities available to qualified speakers of French. Suggestions concerning student eligibility and the time requirements of language programs are also offered. (RL)

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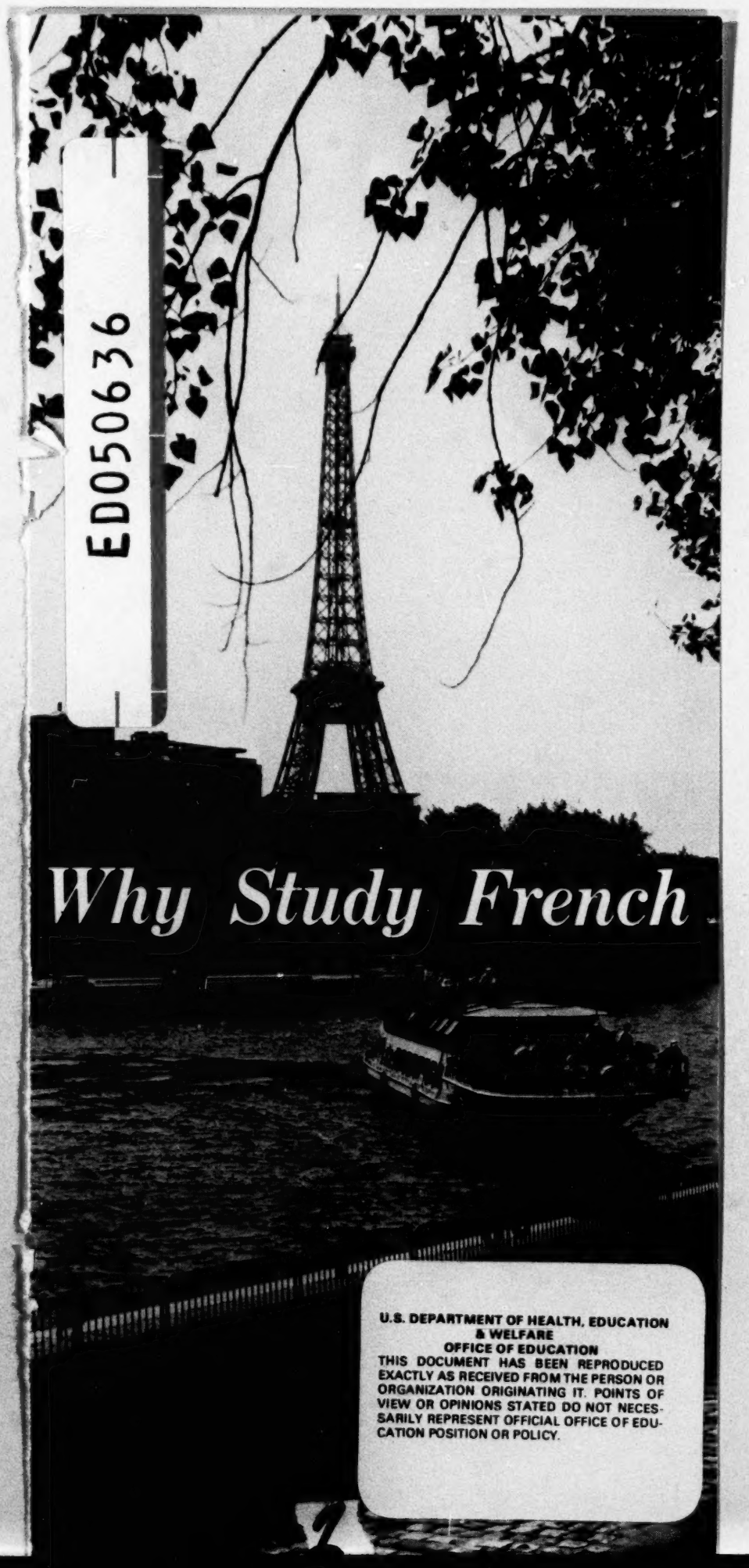

Why Study French

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FOREWORD

Not so long ago, when you parents went to school, only a small minority of youngsters studied a foreign language, and those who did rarely learned enough to order a meal in a foreign restaurant!

Perhaps, as a result, you wonder if the learning of a foreign language is justified for your children.

For you, parents and students, who read this pamphlet, the answer is *YES*, because since World War II, the study of foreign languages has been vastly modified and improved and, as a result, is booming in many parts of the United States. *Also, let's not forget that people who speak a language other than English outnumber those who speak only English about 10 to 1.*

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WHY STUDY FRENCH?

In choosing a language, one must consider the culture behind it, the number of people throughout the world who speak it, the length of time available for its study and mastery (French is offered in Tucson as early as in Junior High School and, of course, throughout the University.)

Whereas French is actually the language of 50 million people in France and "the diplomatic language" since the end of the 17th century, let us not forget that there is also a "francophone" world — a world in which French is either the national language, or the official language, or even the required foreign language to be studied in high school.

The francophone world includes actually 33 States throughout the world representing a population of more than 210 million people. In North America alone, more than 6 million people speak French, and it is worth mentioning that the state of Louisiana which numbers 800,000 people, has just adopted French as its second official language and, from 1970 on, the study of French has been compulsory in every high school of this state. Nor should we forget our Canadian neighbors, where 5 million, in the province of Quebec alone, speak French! French is certainly the language of a very large number of the world's population.

The multiplication of the countries where French is spoken should remind us that outside the "francophone world" — French — as a foreign language, occupies a place of choice in every country where the "élite" learns it in high school and universities and continues practicing it, long afterwards.

In this regard, something said by Mr. Henri Taylor and published in the *Arizona Daily Star*, is appropriate: ". . . from the 17th century on, from Moscow to London, no man could call himself a gentleman who did not speak French." Although this is not necessarily so in our current society, it can still be interpreted in the sense that French is still a language valued by many people in the world.

WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT SHOULD TAKE FRENCH?

Until recently, most students wishing to attend a good college or university were required to take a foreign language in high school. Usually only they did, and in a purely academic fashion. Today, more youngsters should be encouraged to try to learn a foreign language for anyone can learn another tongue provided he or she has enough interest and motivation. And since success will depend to a large extent on how a youngster reacts to sound and vocabulary, every student interested in a language should be provided the opportunity to acquire it.

TIME TO START

According to studies of leading American psychologists, the brain of a youngster is more receptive to language before adolescence. Therefore, starting a foreign language in junior high school which has an established foreign language program seems to be the ideal time to provide your youngsters with such an opportunity for learning a foreign language.

HOW LONG SHOULD A LANGUAGE BE STUDIED?

Although it is hard to say exactly, it seems that anything less than 3 years is almost worthless. Ideally a student should start in junior high school and continue through high school.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH FRENCH!

We have never been so deeply involved with other countries, and the United States are nowadays assuming a position of world leadership both in government and industry. Therefore, everyone seems to agree that there is a present and growing need in U.S. business and industry for employees with proficiency in a foreign language.

Below you will find a brief list of vocational opportunities for those interested in finding a career in which French is needed or useful:

1. Teaching Positions

- University professor of French, salary: $9,000-$18.000.
- Senior high school teacher of French, salary range: $6,600-$14,000.
- Junior high school teacher of French, salary range: $6,600-$14,000.

2. International Occupations

- United Nations (French is a required language besides English).
- U.N.E.S.C.O. (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization). Salary range $7,500.
- Attorney at Law in international affairs.
- Oil companies: geologists, chemists: SHELL, ESSO, etc.
- Publishing companies with branches in francophone countries.
- Importer/Exporter with firms having branches in francophone countries. Salary from $8,000 and up.
- Banking in America or in Europe. Salary range $7,000-$30,000.
- Fashion buyers or writers. Salary $10,000 + paid expenses.
- Technical writer: for industry, science, engineering.
- Missionary work: in Africa, South Pacific or any other francophone country.

3. Government Occupations

- Foreign Service Officer: Diplomat, Consul, Intelligence, International affairs. Salary $6,000-$18,000.
- Department of Justice: Immigration officer.

- U.S. Information Agency: Foreign Language Specialist. Salary range GS7-GS13 ($8,100-$16,760).
- Department of State: Escort Interpreter for bilingual persons. Salary $7,500 + paid expenses.
- Department of Defense: Interpreter, Translator.
- Peace Corps in francophone countries.
- F.B.I.
- C.I.A. (Central Intelligence Agency) starting salary around $8,000.

4. Press and Radio

- Voice of America: Speaker, preparation of radio programs, translator script adaptor GS7 $8,100 to GS13 $16,760.
- Foreign correspondent for newspapers or fashion magazines.

5. Airline Companies — Travel

- Airline positions: stewardess, traffic manager, ticket agent, pilot, information agent, airline agent, with Companies such as: AIR FRANCE, UTA, PAN AM, TWA, TCA, with offices in francophone countries.
- Travel and Tour Guide: American Express, Cooks Tours and other travel agencies touring francophone countries.
- Travel Agents.

6. Science and Technology

- Geographers, chemists, astronomers, meteorologists, oceanographers, geologists, geophysicists, biological scientists.

7. Business

- Bilingual secretary starting salary: $7,500 and up.
- Hotel occupations: manager, receptionist, switchboard operator.
- Telephone companies: International long distance telephone operators, Chief operators, traffic manager.
- Merchant marine radio operators.
- Home Economics: French is a very useful language for understanding the preparation of many foreign dishes and other related work. For qualified persons many positions are open.
- Sales representatives.
- Public relations.
- Agents for foreign authors and publishers.

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FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES: They are foreign countries such as Canada; Belgium; Switzerland; Haiti; in north Africa: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia; in Africa: Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Niger, Congo, Mali, Madagascar; in Middle East and Asia: Lebanon, Cambodia, Laos, etc. . . . where French is spoken, taught and learned.

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